## FEDERAL COMMUNICATIONS COMMISSION Washington, D. C. 20554

DEC 2 8 2001

OFFICE OF MANAGING DIRECTOR

Ms. Rhonda L. Neil Brown Nietert & Kaufman, Chartered. 1920 N Street, N.W., Suite 660 Washington, D.C. 20036

> Re: Request for Deferment of FY 2001 Regulatory Fee Fee Control No. 0110168835306002

Dear Ms. Neil:

This responds to your request for deferment of the Fiscal Year (FY) 2001 regulatory fee of \$450 for MDS Station WLW927, Victoria, Texas, licensed to Friendly Community Television Service (Friendly).

You state that Friendly has a lease agreement with United States Wireless Systems, Inc. (US Wireless) pursuant to which US Wireless operates Station WLW927 and pays the station's regulatory fees. You recite that US Wireless filed for Chapter 11 bankruptcy protection on October 27, 2000, and a Chapter 11 Trustee was appointed on March 12, 2001. The Trustee has filed a request for deferment of regulatory fees for certain MDS stations, including Station WLW927, that are either owned by US Wireless or leased to it. Although Friendly paid the FY 2001 fee for Station WLW927, you request deferment and refund of the fee for the reasons set forth in the Trustee's request for deferment.

The Commission will grant waivers of its regulatory fees on a sufficient showing of financial hardship. Evidence of bankruptcy or receivership is sufficient to establish financial hardship. See Implementation of Section 9 of the Communications Act, 10 FCC Rcd 12759, 12761-62 (1995) (waivers granted for licensees whose stations are bankrupt, undergoing Chapter 11 reorganization, or in receivership).

In a companion letter in response to the Trustee's request for deferment, based on the bankruptcy proceeding involving US Wireless, we have waived payment of the FY 2001 regulatory fees for the MDS stations licensed to US Wireless. As we state in that letter, however, the Chapter 11 status of US Wireless does not impact on the ability of licensees such as Friendly, who lease their MDS stations to US Wireless, to pay their regulatory fees. Nor does the private lease agreement between Friendly and US Wireless establish good cause for waiver or deferment. Accordingly, your request for deferment and refund of the fee is denied.

If you have any questions concerning this letter, please contact the Revenue and Receivable Operation Group at (202) 418-1995.

Sincerely,

Mark A. Reger

Chief Financial Officer

## LAW OFFICES

## **BROWN NIETERT & KAUFMAN, CHARTERED**

SUITE 660 1920 N STREET, N.W. WASHINGTON, D.C. 20036 TEL (202) 887-0600 FAX (202) 457-0126

September 26, 2001

Office of the Managing Director Federal Communications Commission 445 12<sup>th</sup> Street, SW, Room 1-A625 Washington, DC 20554

SEP 2 6 2001

FEDERAL COMMERCATIONS COMMISSION OFFICE OF THE SECRETARY

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Attn: Regulatory Fee Waiver/Reduction Request

Re:

MDS Station WLW927, Victoria, Texas

Request for Deferment of Regulatory Fee

NT PROCESS

RECEIVE FCC

Dear Sir/Madam:

Friendly Community Television Service ("Friendly"), licensee of MDS Sizeon WLW927 in Victoria, Texas, by its attorneys, hereby requests that the 2001 Regulatory Fee for Station WLW927 be deferred.

Friendly has a lease agreement with United States Wireless Systems, Inc. ("US Wireless") which has been leasing Station WLW927 since 1995. Pursuant to the lease agreement, US Wireless is obligated to make monthly lease fee payments to Friendly and to make regulatory fee payments to the FCC for Station WLW927. In return, US Wireless has the right to operate the Station as part of its system in Victoria.

US Wireless filed for Chapter 11 bankruptcy protection on October 27, 200 and a Chapter 11 Trustee ("Trustee") was appointed on March 12, 2001. In a letter to Magalie Roman Salas dated September 18, 2001, counsel for the Trustee requested deferment of Annual Regulatory Fees for 2001 for certain MDS stations, including Station WLW927 in Victoria. The Trustee indicates that he is making every effort to conserve the resources of the estate and find a buyer for US Wireless' assets. That buyer will then be obligated to pay the applicable regulatory fees.

Although Friendly timely paid the 2001 Regulatory Fee for Station WLW927 on September 26, 2001, a copy of which is attached, Friendly is also requesting deferment of the 2001 Regulatory Fee for Station WLW927 based upon the reasons set forth in the September 18, 2001 letter from the Trustee. If the Commission grants the Trustee's request for deferment, Friendly asks that its 2001 Regulatory Fee payment for Station WLW927 be refunded.

If there are any questions concerning this matter, please contact the undersigned.

Sincerely,

Chris L. Keil Rhonda L. Neil

cc:

Claudette E. Pride, OMD Stephen Svab, Esq. MDS Section

Friendly Community Television Service

READ INSTRUCTIONS CAREFULLY APPROVED BY OME FEDERAL COMMUNICATIONS COMMISSION BEFORE PROCEEDING SPECIAL USE REMITTANCE ADVICE FCC USE ONLY 358835 (1) LOCKBOX # SECTION A - PAYER INFORMATION 11 TOTAL AMOUNT PAID Idelians and contri Friendly Community Television Service \$450.00 4) STREET ADDRESS LINE NO. 1 FEDERA P.O. Box 632 S) STREET ADDRESS LINE NO. 2 Palmer Road e cm TATE 8) ZIP COO TX 77954 Cuero S) DAYTIME TELEPHONE NUMBER (Include o SM COUNTRY CODE (If and in U.S.A.) 361-275-8200 IF PAYER NAME AND THE APPLICANT NAME ARE DIFFERENT COMPLETE SECTION BY THE MORE THAN ONE APPLICANT SUSE CONTINUATION SHEETS (FORM 159-C) SECTION B - APPLICANT INFORMATION 12) STREET ADORESS I WE NO. 1 (12) STREET ADDRESS LINE NO. 2 14) CITY 16) ZIP CODE (17) DAYTIME TELEPHONE NUMBER Sectors area code (18) COUNTRY CODE (II not in U.S.A.) DAY (BROF) ASERTHANOTA (MITROSERUA DE LE LE LA ROCE ROCAL A FORDE RATA (BROF) A SER PARTE LE LE LA COLOR DE LA TELEMENTE LE LA COLOR DE LA TELEMENTE LA COLOR DE L SECTION C - PAYMENT INFORMATION

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SEE PUBLIC BURDEN ESTIMATE ON REVERSE

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